



VICTORY

FLASHES

from **MUHLENBERG**

August 8, 1944

Number 67

Dear Muhlenbergers:

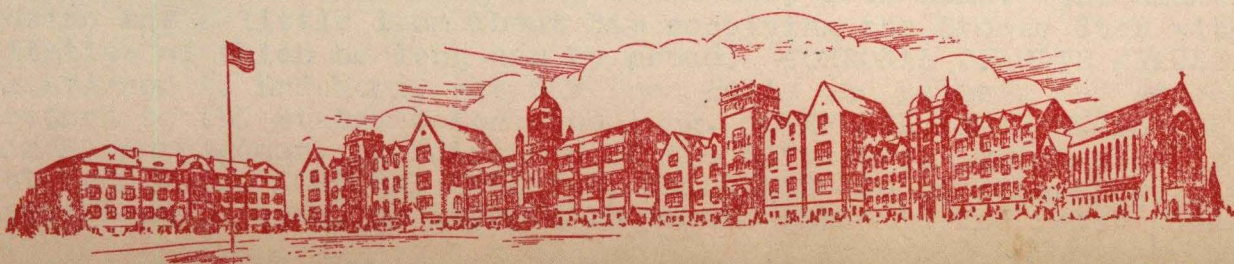
This is the third time that I'm starting this letter and if there are any more interruptions I'm quite likely to have a private war on my hands. I'm writing to you a day or two early because at the moment we are waiting for a call from Baltimore that will give us the inside track on the test run of the SS MUHLENBERG VICTORY. It's scheduled to leave Baltimore on Friday or Saturday and when it does Dr. Tyson and I are going with it just to see that the blamed thing doesn't ship water or anything like that--and if any of you fellows doubt that reason don't say it out loud.

This really is a difficult week. My girl Friday (Elsie to some of you) needed a vacation and Kitty (Art Hill's wife) and I are trying to hang on and keep things moving so that perhaps the rest of us can get a little bit of a break too. Whether we're here or away the work keeps on piling up so we can't see that a vacation would make too much difference. We'll let anything else flop to be able to keep in touch with you.

Any news we may have this week--and it's mighty little--would be dwarfed by the big news from Washington and the Pacific. That bomb that dropped on the Japs on Sunday is likely to make a big difference not only in this war but, perhaps, in the future of all of us. I think you'd be interested in knowing that we have pretty good reason to believe that four Muhlenberg men have been working on it in government laboratories and plants. I don't believe that at the moment we're free to disclose their names, but, suffice it to say, they were chemistry majors. We are guessing at that because we happen to know the training they have had here and in graduate school and we also know what their addresses have been. So you see, even in that scientific development of our age, Muhlenberg has played its part. You and we are on the sending end of the atom bomb and we shudder. We like to believe, with Secretary of War Stimson that Japan is doing a lot more than shuddering and that perhaps it will be the means to a much quicker end to the war than most of us could believe.

As I said a few paragraphs above, very little has been happening here on the campus that is more than routine now that the new Navy training unit is thoroughly established. It really is a military unit with the men marching back and forth to classes--twice a day to the music of a drum and bugle corps. That's just a bit different from the V-12 days. And, incidentally, for you fellows of V-12, this program involves 10 hours a week of physical fitness, in addition to drill and daily formations. There are no free periods. Platoons that don't have classroom work at a particular period spend it in a study hall that has been established on the top deck of the Library where you had your engineering drawing classes. At the moment the unit numbers just above 300 men and we still are expecting an increase to nearly 400 in September.

Sometime ago I said I'd let you in on the plans for football.



We're still waiting for word on the new coach and should have it by the time we write our next letter to you. There are about 18 civilian students ready to play football but perhaps that number will be augmented from the ranks of the men in blue who are on the campus. Six games have been scheduled--only one of them at home. That is with F. and M. on Saturday, October 13. First game is with Swarthmore on September 22. Then follow Penn State on September 29, F. and M. away on October 6, F. and M. at home, and Lehigh in Bethlehem on October 20. We hope to work in a little soccer during the Fall and perhaps another football game will be scheduled--but again we're just guessing, or is it wishful thinking.

I was just about to tell you that there haven't been any visitors during the last two weeks but was saved that embarrassment by the arrival of DICK KIDNEY '46, S.M. 3/c just back from 15 months on board an LST in the Mediterranean. He's one of the boys who saw action in the invasion of Southern France and for the rest of the time he was kept busy too, although it was nothing too spectacular. Last week LIEUTENANT FOSTER BLAIR '42 dropped in after he headed north from Sanford, Florida where he has been an instructor since he came back from the Pacific with his Silver Star, Air Medal, Presidential Citation, and seven battle stars represented strikes on Midway, Guadalcanal, the Eastern Solomons, Attu, the Mariannas, Wake and the Gilberts. You may remember, he's a fighter pilot. He's planning to complete his work for his Muhlenberg degree when the Navy decides to let him lay aside his uniform. Right now he's headed into the Pacific once again.

Before we hit the mail bag, you might be interested in knowing that among the men who comprise the new Navy training unit here on the campus, 41 states are represented. So far we have found men from every state but Arizona, Arkansas, Delaware, Nevada, North Dakota, South Dakota and Vermont. We also have several from the District of Columbia and one from the Territory of Hawaii. And interesting too, is the fact that the largest number from any one state is 32 from California.

We're indebted to Dr. Barba for part of this mail call. PFC. DONALD BROBST '46 has given a detailed account of his travels through Germany with an Infantry unit that helped win the victory and, suffice it to say, he reiterates that many German cities are just places on the map. At times it seems too bad, he says, but when you see the other side, he emphasizes, the oppressed foreign labor and the concentration camps and mass murders, the destruction in other countries, sympathy is quickly snuffed out. PFC. RICHARD HARRIER '45 writes that he doesn't know how the German people were before the war but his report is that they are now enigmatic. The completeness of Hitler's miseducation, he says, is unbelievable and in many Germans it remains an always dangerous element. They have, he says, not national consciousness of guilt. On the other hand, there is a group that admits all and is sorry only that they lost the war. His letter is datelined Borchtesgaden--but before he got there he travelled through France, Holland, Belgium and other sections of Germany. CORPORAL GEORGE RIZOS '46, who writes from Welzheim, says his travels thus far have taken him through practically all of Germany except the Hanover-Berlin area. He is still awed and inspired by the scenic beauty of the country.

And now for our own mail, just to preserve the continuity, we'll also start with Germany. Our friend, FRANKIE FELTMAN '42 writes from Murnberg to say that he is wearing the gold bars of a second lieutenant and that he enjoyed a little rest in the Alps and ??? in Paris. LIEUTENANT COLONEL LEE ISRAELL '33, whose letter comes from Augsburg, says his unit is standing by to catch that welcome disease called Gangplankitis. And who can blame them--Lee has been in active service since September 1940--a long time to be away from home. The Alumni Magazine has a little item about him receiving the Bronze Star with a citation of which he long can be proud. CORPORAL CHARLIE KRAUSE '46 is stationed in Erdeborn, not far from Halle and Leipzig and expects to return to the states before too long. CORPORAL LAMAR FESIG '46 is in Borchtesgaden, guarding men of the Luftwaffe. Tannhausen is the point from which CORPORAL ERNEST H. WALLENDER '46 is reporting. It's a typical small town, he says, with manure piles in the front yards.

The French post brought word from LIEUTENANT LAWRENCE GUTH '31 who is with the Airborne forces in Orleans, currently busy with personnel hauls. He says his group seems destined to stay there until Fall and help clean things up. SERGEANT WILLIAM RICHARDS '44 is really seeing France. He had the break to play a bull fiddle in an orchestra that played for Army dances in Verdun, Metz, and then flew to Paris to play engagements in Red Cross clubs.

LIEUTENANT HARRY A. STRAUSS '40 has a job as I and E officer in a camp in Italy handling men on their way back home. He likes the job--but better still, he'd like to join the men he is helping to send home. Last month he got to see RAY GRIESEMER '41. STAFF SERGEANT MONROE ROTH '45 is also in Italy, serving with a depot supply squadron. Recently CAPTAIN JOHNNY MILLER '32--still in Italy--enjoyed a rest on the Isle of Capri. He too is waiting for the short ride home. And also on the job in Italy is LIEUTENANT COLONEL FRANK BROWN '19. He too is managing now to imbibe much of the color and culture of Italy.

It looks suspiciously as if CAPTAIN C. A. BOYER '29 will be returning from the 312th Station Hospital with its APO address because we have had word not to use that address any longer. Walking along the Champs de Elysees in Paris recently, T/4 CARL SHIPSTON '43 met the first Muhlenberg man he has seen overseas--LIEUTENANT ARNOLD PETRY '44, whose exploits in Germany are among the Muhlenberg sagas of this war. FIRST SERGEANT KARL LEHR '36, whose many invasions also helped write Muhlenberg's war history, has been ordered to duty on the staff of the American Armed Forces educational center at Shrivenham, England. When he arrived in England from France on June 28th he made his seventh crossing of the Channel.

Just as quickly as that we jump across land and water to go to the Philippines and the Pacific theatres where you fellows now seem to be concentrated. Word from the Philippines comes from EDDIE MILLER '37, SPECIALIST (A), who is helping organize and direct the recreational program for Navy men in his area; from LIEUTENANT NELSON GRAHAM '40, on Luzon, who still is cherishing hopes of coaching and teaching when he comes home; from KENNETH KOCH '32, who has found that Muhlenberg is well known among the men with whom he is working as an American Red Cross Field Director and who tells us that a bar of soap costs 50 cents, a pack of American cigarettes \$1, a loaf of bread \$2, etc. etc.; and from CORPORAL BOB KRIMMEL '44, who is on Luzon, anxiously waiting for the day he can come back to finish his work at Muhlenberg. LIEUTENANT JAMES E. MAJOR '44 is in Hawaii, another one of the boys who is eager to take up where he left off on this little campus that means more to an increasing number of men as the days go by. CORPORAL ROBERT RANKEN '44 wrote to us some time ago from the B-24 on which he was flying to Hawaii. He had been on Okinawa and the first mail he received there was the Alumni Magazine that had been forwarded to him from Colorado.

Out in the Pacific CAPTAIN CARL PROEHL '39 still manages to keep busy but has plenty of time to catch up on his tennis and golf and claims it will really take time to get in form. JACK E. DOOLIN '33, PH.M. 3/c, says he still hasn't met a Muhlenberg man in the Pacific, but he blames it on the size of the area rather than on the absence of men who were his classmates and college friends. On his way out into the Pacific, JOHN A. MORE '45, AMM 3/c discovered, to his dismay that his plane wouldn't float and that he couldn't drink the Pacific dry. He came through, OK and now is assigned to a new plane. Also in the Pacific, PRIVATE JOE BOKROSH '36 is glad to know, through this letter and the Magazine, where so many of his friends from Muhlenberg are stationed. The coeducation arguments sound good to ENSIGN DAVID A. GOTTLIEB '44 floating around the Pacific on his LST but there are some questions he'd like to have answered. They don't sound so good to WARREN HIMMELBERGER '44, Aer.M. 2/c, who has sent us quite a brief that will ultimately be published in the Alumni Magazine. WARREN has had a glimpse of Manila during his travels in the Pacific.

We suspect that LEON ROSENBERG '34, SK 2/c sent us his contribution to the Loyalty Fund from Okinawa--at least he indicates that the place he is at has been figuring very prominently in the news and we still haven't heard of any Muhlenberg men landing in Tokyo..

Perhaps it won't be long. ENSIGN BOB HAILE '44 has been having some mighty interesting experiences plowing around in the Pacific in his rescue ship and his story is one of the many that will bear telling when we all get together again--if not sooner. ENSIGN MERV SHUMAN, one of the V-12 boys, urges you fellows in the Pacific to keep on the lookout for an LSM that has a Texas Belle painted on it. That's his ship and the ship's cook comes from Hazleton and has Pennsylvania Dutch cooking down to a fine art. Merv says there's a chance of sampling it-at the sign of the Texas Belle. SERGEANT FORREST SAMUELS '41 still doesn't care too much for New Guinea, even though he has had 26 months to develop a yen for it. Recently he had a short interlude on Cape Gloucester where he reports living like a king with the natives bringing all kinds of fish, lobster, clams, fruit, and vegetables. That, he says, has been his closest approach to the tropical paradise of the cinemas.

PRIVATE FRANCIS GENDALL '30 is happy to be able to help give the Japs what they asked for and, with all of us, is hoping for an early victory. While waiting for his orders in Pearl Harbor, ENSIGN C.H. WOODWORTH '44 met WAYNE KECK '44, JACK HOUSER '43, and RED REESE and their bull session had all the familiar accessories. At long last we've heard again from ENSIGN JIM HEMSTREET '44 on his LCT in the Pacific. He has seen DUKE BERGHORN '42, has heard that ROG VOLPE '44 is in the neighborhood, and has had a session with TOM O'HAGAN '45. CORPORAL RICHARD FRB '46, who plans to be married when he gets back to the States, is recovering from an injury to his hand. He banged it up while climbing a pole. LIEUTENANT R.C. THOMPSON '39, whose wife Ruth Yoder presented him with a brand new daughter out in San Diego, now is the commanding officer of a new 11,000 ton ship with a San Francisco Fleet Post Office address. He previously commanded minesweepers in Atlantic and Pacific waters. PFC. NIMSON ROBERTS '33 has dropped us a line from Okinawa which he hopes will be his permanent address until it's time to come home.

Two letters slipped into the mail from China--one from PFC. CHARLES WAGNER '47 who's wondering how the weaker sex will effect his college life when he comes back to Muhlenberg. He has an idea that Muhlenberg may be co-educational by that time. Incidentally, there's nothing new on that subject. SERGEANT BILL GRIFFIN '37 wrote the other letter from China to tell us that in addition to his work as a propeller specialist he's finding time to teach a course in business English.

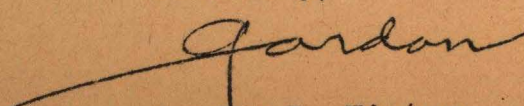
A bit of stateside mail also found its way across the desk in these last two weeks. LIEUTENANT CHARLES VAN REED '44 reports that he no longer is living on his post, but has taken quarters in Richmond, Virginia. The reason, he explains, is that he is now a married man--the lucky girl being Dorothy Kheino, whom he met at Cornell. LIEUTENANT W.D. GREULICH, former commanding officer of our V-12 Unit, is assistant training and education officer at the Naval Receiving Station at Terminal Island, San Pedro, Calif., with duties too numerous to mention but enough time to get in a little golf every now and then. LIEUTENANT (JG) WILMER CRESSMAN '42 is still on leave, still enjoying life with Millie in San Diego, Calif. He and his wife gave LIEUTENANT and MRS. SPERWOOD COTA a taste of the Cressman hospitality and of Mrs. Cressman's cooking. It must have been good, because the Cota's are going back. And, just for the record, Cressman and I (at least I) have now signed a non-aggression, non-heckling pact. As a result I find it difficult to write to him or about him. PFC. RAY NIES '45 is with the Marines, enjoying California weather at Camp Pendleton.

Sorry I got so long-winded this time that there's not even space for the promotions and, as usual, we have some. But I did get through all the mail on the desk and you have the full report.

As I told you in the beginning, the letter was written early so that I could go to Baltimore on the test run of the S.S. MUHLENBERG VICTORY. But the usual date for letter writing has rolled around and we're still waiting for the ship. Expect she may be tested on Monday.

Thanks a lot for all your letters and keep them rolling. We'll keep ours coming until the last one of you comes home.

Sincerely,


Gordon B. Fister
Foster's Alumni Office